WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating incontinence, the method comprising:

aligning a probe body with a collagenous pelvic tissue;

heating a treatment volume of at least 100 cubic millimeters of the collagenous tissue using the aligned probe body.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume is separated from a urethra by at least about 1 cm.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the treatment volume is offset laterally from the urethra to a right side or left side.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the treatment volume comprises at least 300 cubic millimeters of collagenous tissue, wherein the heating is performed so that the treatment volume is heated to a temperature of at least 70°C for a time of at least 30 seconds, wherein the treatment volume is offset laterally from the urethra to a right side of a patient, and further comprising heating another treatment volume offset laterally from the urethra to a left side of the patient, the other treatment volume comprising at least 300 cubic millimeters of collagenous tissue and heated to at least 70°C for at least 30 seconds.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume is heated to at least about 65°C for at least about 100 seconds.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume is heated to at least about 75°C for at least about 10 seconds.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying a dwell time after a desired heating temperature is achieved so as to increase treatment tissue volume.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume has a length orientation extending along a urethra, a depth orientation extending between the collagenous tissue and the probe body, and a width that is greater than the length of the treatment volume.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume has a length orientation extending along a urethra, a depth orientation extending between the collagenous tissue and the probe body, and a width that is less than the length of the treatment volume.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering a position of the treatment volume along an axis of the urethra with reference to a guide body disposed within the urethra.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering a position of the treatment volume with reference to bone.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the probe is aligned so that an intermediate tissue is disposed between the probe body and the treatment volume.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the treatment volume comprises tissue separated from the aligned probe body by a distance within a range of about 2 to 8 mm.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the treatment volume comprises tissue separated from the aligned probe body by a distance within a range of about 2 to 4 mm.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the heating is performed so as to inhibit necrosis of the intermediate tissue.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the heating is performed while cooling the intermediate tissue.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the heating is performed without cooling of the intermediate tissue.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the heating is performed by advancing a plurality of tissue-penetrating electrodes from the probe body into the treatment volume and applying electrical potential to the tissue-penetrating electrodes.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the heating is performed by tip movement of at least a pair of electrodes supported by the probe body.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the treatment volume increases as the tip movement speed decreases.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume comprises at least 300 cubic millimeters of collagenous tissue.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment volume comprises between about 100 cubic millimeters and about 800 cubic millimeters of collagenous tissue.

23. A system for treating incontinence of a patient having a collagenous pelvic tissue, the system comprising:

a probe body alignable with the collagenous pelvic tissue so that an intermediate tissue is disposed therebetween;

at least one energy delivery element supported by the probe body, the at least one energy delivery element capable of heating, from the aligned probe body, a treatment volume of at least 300 cubic millimeters of the collagenous tissue to a temperature of at least 70°C for a time of at least 30 seconds so that the collagenous pelvic tissue contributes to continence.

24. The system of claim 23, further comprising at least one cooling element supported by the probe body so as to provide cooling of the intermediate tissue while heating the treatment volume.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the at least one energy delivery element comprises a plurality of electrodes.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the electrodes have a width of at least 20 mm and a length of less than 8 mm.

27. The system of claim 24, wherein the at least one energy delivery element comprises a distal or proximal pair of electrodes on the probe body.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein the at least one energy delivery element comprises a pair of elongated electrodes.

29. The system of claim 23, wherein the at least one energy delivery element comprises a plurality of tissue-penetrating elements.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements comprise needle electrodes, blade electrodes, planar electrodes, C shaped electrodes, corkscrew shaped electrodes, or tissue-penetrating electrode tips.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements comprise an array of two to twenty tissue-penetrating electrodes.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements extend from a tissue-engaging surface by a distance within a range from about 0 to about 8 mm.

33. The system of claim 29, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements have a diameter in a range from about 0.035 inch to about 0.125 inch.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein proximal portions of the tissue-penetrating elements are electrically insulated.

35. The system of claim 29, wherein the tissue-penetrating elements comprise expandable electrodes.

36. The system of claim 23, further comprising a guide body disposable within a urethra so as to register a position of the treatment volume along an axis of the urethra.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the guide body further comprises axial position indicators or electromagnetic transmitters.

38. The system of claim 23, wherein the treatment volume comprises tissue separated from the aligned probe body by a distance within a range of about 2 to 8 mm.

39. The system of claim 23, wherein the treatment volume is separated from a urethra by at least about 1 cm.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the treatment volume is offset laterally from the urethra to a right side or left side.

41. The system of claim 23, wherein the treatment volume has a length orientation extending along a urethra, a depth orientation extending between the collagenous tissue and the probe body, and a width that is greater than the length of the treatment volume.

42. The system of claim 23, wherein the treatment volume has a length orientation extending along a urethra, a depth orientation extending between the collagenous tissue and the probe body, and a width that is less than the length of the treatment volume.

43. The system of claim 23, wherein the treatment volume comprises between about 300 cubic millimeters and about 800 cubic millimeters of collagenous tissue.

44. The system of claim 23, wherein the at least one energy delivery element heats the treatment volume of tissue by the application of bipolar radio frequency energy.

45. A method for treating incontinence, the method comprising:

aligning a probe body with a collagenous pelvic tissue;

advancing a plurality of tissue-penetrating electrodes into the collagenous tissue from the aligned probe body; and

heating a treatment volume of at least 300 cubic millimeters of the collagenous tissue using the aligned probe, wherein the heating is performed so that the treatment volume is heated to a temperature of at least 70°C for a time of at least 30 seconds.

46. A system for treating incontinence of a patient having a collagenous pelvic tissue, the system comprising:

a probe body alignable with the collagenous pelvic tissue;

a plurality of tissue-penetrating electrodes supported by the probe body, the electrodes capable of heating, from the aligned probe body, a treatment volume of at least 300 cubic millimeters of the collagenous tissue to a temperature of at least 70°C for a time of at least 30 seconds so that the collagenous pelvic tissue contributes to continence.

47. The system of claim 46, further comprising at least one cooling element supported by the probe body so as to provide cooling of intermediate tissue while heating the treatment volume.